Vol. II. Numb. 27.

The EXAMINER.

From Thursday *May* 29, to Thursday *June* 5. 1712.

I Have left off Wondering, for ſome time, why the *Dutch* are ſo furious in the Intereſt of the *Whig*-Party; and if I had any Wonder left, it would have been quite over for ſome time paſt. The Account given of the *Engliſh* Clergy, in the *Amſterdam* News-Paper of *May* the 26th, their Style, ſhews what Pains hath been taken to miſrepreſent our Principles, and with what Succeſs. I ſhall, with the Reader's Leave, Tranſlate a ſhort Paragraph in the Article from *London* from the aforeſaid Paper. "Since the Schiſm which happened in the "Church of *England* ſome time after the Re"volution, and whereof Mr *Dodwell* was the "Head, the Clergy, who diſtinguiſh them"ſelves by the Name of *High-Church*, and "whereof many are declared Partizans of the "*Pretender*, have, by little and little, made "nearer Approaches to the Church of *Rome*, "and have given into thoſe Opinions which "moſt favour Paſſive Obedience, and the Pow"er of the Church; among others, that the "Catholick Church is a Body ſubject to one "and the ſame outward Government; that "that every Chriſtian ought to ſubmit him"ſelf to the Laws and Decrees of the Catho"lick Church, under pain of Damnation; that "the Church is independent of the State; that "the Church alone hath Power to offer the "Myſtical Body of Chriſt in Sacrifice; that "Epiſcopal Ordination is abſolutely neceſſary "for the Vocation of Miniſters of the Goſpel; "that the Church and her Miniſters have the "Power to Pardon Sins, *&c.*

I ſhall not enter into an Examination of this Jumble of Opinions, fixt by an ignorant and ill-informed *Dutchman*, upon the Body of the *Engliſh* Clergy, under the Name of *High-Church*; for how he has confounded thoſe Tenets, which none of our Clergy ever affirmed, with others which none of them ever denied, though perhaps they may all ſeem equally monſtrous to the Ear of a *Hollander*, for whom alone they were calculated, and whoſe Notions, I hope, will never be a Pattern for ours, either in Religion or Government. But allowing *Dodwell*, or any other *Nonjuror* of ſingular Notions, may have publiſhed ſtrange Opinions; with what Confidence can this foggy Gleaner of *Engliſh* Scandal, accuſe all the Clergy, under the Name of *High-Church*, for the Miſtakes of one or two Individuals? Suppoſe in writing a Character of the *Dutch*; Would they think it fair, that I ſhould collect all the wild Enthuſiaſtick Dreams of *Jack of Leyden*, *Knipperdolin*, or any other of their Apoſtles, and publiſh them as a Syſtem of *Dutch* Divinity? Is there a Mongrel Sect in *Chriſtendom*, which does not Croak, and Spawn, and Flouriſh, in their *Sooterkin* Bogs? Would They believe it juſt, to liſt the Heads of thoſe Sects in the number of their *Eſtabliſhed*, or what they call their *Orthodox* Preachers? Or, to return home, ſince all this Calumny is but an Eccho from hence, Might we not, with more Juſtice, place to the Account of the *Whig* Party, all the Blaſphemous Nonſenſe of the *Quakers*, *Muggletonians*, *Familiſts*, &c. with the Notions broached by *Socinians*, *Deiſts*, *Free-thinkers*, in order to overthrow all Religion, ſince each of theſe are profeſt Retainers to their Faction, and make ſo conſiderable a part of it, both for Number and Quality?

But Miſrepreſentations are a trifling Subject to talk of at preſent, ſince our Adverſaries begin to think the Seaſon is come for gathering the Fruit of them: It muſt be confeſſed, there never were ſuch bold Attackers; every Stroke they have offered, hath been aimed directly at the Heart, which ſeem to have been put by rather by immediate Providence, than our own Precaution: The M——ry appears to have Truſted to their Innocence and good Intentions more, perhaps, than is uſual with Politicians; and without uſing thoſe little Arts, which Wiſe-men cannot but know, at the ſame time they deſpiſe, they have hitherto carried on the true Intereſt of their Prince and Country, againſt all Oppoſition.

If the Courſe of Publick Affairs were not too uncertain to form Conjectures or Preſages upon, I ſhould be almoſt Sanguine enough to hope that the Safety or Ruin of *England*, would not for the future be ſo equal in the Ballance; and that ſo great a Majority, in a Point of ſuch Importance as that of ſome Days paſſed, would make People weary of ſtruggling any longer to compaſs the Deſtruction of their Country. Upon which occaſion, I cannot but reflect upon a moſt admirable Trope, offered by a Great and Ancient Maſter of Rhetorick: He knew that what he had to propoſe, would be rejected with Deteſtation by every Man, who had the leaſt regard for the Q——n, or for Monarchy it ſelf; and therefore by a moſt Artificial Figure of Speech, he Prefaced it in private Converſation, to ſeveral of the Contrary Party, that what he had now

to

to Offer, was of ſuch a Nature, that none of either ſide could poſſibly object againſt it: The Loyalty, the Mildneſs, the Conſtancy, the Diſintereſtedneſs and Integrity of this moſt excellent Patriot, can never be ſufficiently Celebrated. I have heard of a Perſon once in great Office, who being informed by ſome of his Clerks, of a poor Foreigner that had lain long in Priſon, upon Suſpicion, by a State-Warrant, and deſiring to know what his Pleaſure was concerning the Priſoner, asked in ſome *Paſſion*, Why they had not SECURED him before?

I never yet obſerved, that ſanguinary Men grew more Mild or Merciful by Age, but it rather ſeems as if the loſs and decay of their own Blood, made them more thirſty after that of others. I form to my ſelf how ſpeedily ſome People have lately carried their Imaginations, from a Senate-houſe to a Priſon; from a Priſon to a Court of Judicature; and from thence, by due degrees, to a Scaffold. If the Mercy of ſome Men be Cruel, what is their Severity? Is it that ſome, who are haſtning to their own Graves, would be attended like *Indian* Kings, by having others Sacrificed only to accompany them? Is it that being employed under thoſe Reigns where Executions were frequent, they think it a neceſſary Form in Government, to have Heads ſtruck off at certain Periods? Is a great Place ſo Firm a Tenure at this time, that ſome Men cannot wait the Reverſion, but are impatient for the Blood of thoſe who are in? Such were thoſe *Demagogues* in *Greece* and *Rome*, who ſtirred up, or bribed by their Ambitious Generals, would Harangue the People into the Deſtruction of the beſt and wiſeſt Men, that endeavoured the Peace and Safety of their Country. How truly has the Obſervation been verified, that Renegadoes are much greater Enemies to Chriſtianity than natural *Turks!* And it is equally true, that in what Stage of Life ſoever Honour, Conſcience, Religion, Loyalty, Love of our Country, forſake us, there is ample room, for the reverſe of all theſe, to take poſſeſſion of our Hearts, and to exert themſelves, with us much Malice, tho' not as much Power, as in the Vigour of our Youth!

But notwithſtanding Miſrepreſentations from abroad, and the Blood-thirſty Malice of ſome at home, notwithſtanding that Windows and Balconies were hired in hopes to ſee the Cataſtrophy of a Dutiful Subject, and invaluable Miniſter, and tho' all Arts have been made uſe of to Debar us from the Land of Promiſe; tho' the true Intereſt of our Country hath been Sacrificed to ſerve that of an exploded reſtleſs *Faction*; yet *our Heavenly Father, who knoweth all that we have need of even before we ask*, hath, as we have good reaſon to hope, prepared for us, by the Hands of our Gracious Q——n, and Her faithful Miniſters, the Bleſſing which our Souls have ſo long panted after: *Peace* is coming to our Habitation, *the Dove* that could not find *any reſting place, no not for the Sole of her Foot*, while War, like *the Waters, prevailed over the Face of the whole Earth*, ſeems to return with the *Olive Branch in her Mouth*, as an Emblem of future Happineſs and Plenty.

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